

# THE ALMA RECORD

VOL. XLIV.—No. 6

\$1.50 the Year—5c the Copy

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1922

TEN PAGES

WHOLE NUMBER 2250

## BABSON REPORTS ON THE EASTERN CENTRAL STATES

NOTED ECONOMIST SEES 1922  
BETTER THAN 1921 IN MOST  
OF LOCALITIES.

### Bond Business

#### Good He Says

Continuing his personal survey of the business of the country Roger W. Babson, statistician and business advisor to 16,000 of the country's leading executives reports his findings on the central eastern states as follows:

"New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and the other large cities, south of New England, prosper largely from three sources.

1. Foreign Trade, the sale of goods to foreign countries even although the goods came from the interior of the country.

2. Jobbing, that is the distribution of merchandise to retailers in the tributary territory.

3. Investments, including the interest received from stocks and bonds together with the profits involved in purchases and sales of securities.

"There is of course a certain amount of manufacturing in these cities—especially of garments and clothing, but they are not primarily industrial cities.

Foreign trade is severely crippled for sometime to come. Certainly 1922 will show no better than 1921. Therefore we may expect very little income from this source.

"The jobbers will hold their own in 1922 and should have an increase in orders. Although retailers are doing comparatively little business yet their stocks are low, and they must buy a certain amount of goods whether they want to or not. If the retailers would only cut prices further, which could be done by a decrease in operating expenses, the jobbers would have good business in 1922.

"The real improvement, however, which New York and these other cities are to witness will come about thru financial conditions. The bond business should be very good in 1922. The stock market should work upwards and there may be even an old fashioned boom before the year comes to a close. Deals and consolidations will be put thru, dividends will be resumed and other things will happen which should enhance the value of securities. Of course, no wealth is really produced by these increased prices, but they affect the prosperity of these cities. All stock market activity always brings money from the interior of the country into the cities and most of it fails to remain there. The small interior towns furnish the lamb; the cities do the shearing; and the wool remains in the cities to swell the bank clearings and be registered as prosperity. The eastern cities will see much more of this money in 1922 than they have seen for some years.

"In a similar way the entire states of New York, Pennsylvania and those others in the eastern group prosper likewise. With the exception of steel cities which will find another quiet year in 1922, the rest of this eastern section should feel better. Agriculturally these states simply feed their own cities with dairy products, vegetables and some grain. The central part of New York has considerable manufacturing and most of these cities will fare better in 1922. The same is true of Pennsylvania and the other sections.

"The electrical industry of Schenectady and Pittsburgh should soon begin to feel the good effects of easy money. Railroads and public utilities of various kinds are only waiting for low interest rates in order that they may sell bonds before giving large orders for electrical equipment. This is also true of the railroad equipment industry. However, money rates should enable the railroads to buy. It should be remembered that after New England, the next section to be hit by the depression of 1920-21 was this portion of the country of which I am writing today. For this very reason, however, New York, Pennsylvania and adjoining states will be the first to follow New England in her recovery. Hence the outlook in these states will be fair. Sales opportunities in these states will be better in 1922 than in 1921. They perhaps have not turned the corner, but they surely are turning the corner.

"As to industrial conditions will say that the state of New York have the best statistics on employment of (Continued from page three)

"Leave it to Polly," May 12. Live-ly and entertaining.—advertisement.

## Democrats to Stage Pow-Pow on Tuesday

Gratiot County Democrats intend to get an early start in the coming political battle that is to be waged this fall in Michigan, judging from a call that has gone forth from the pen of DeWitt Vought, chairman of the county committee, for a meeting to be held in Ithaca Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a Democratic Club and "the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting."

That the Democrats are planning on making a heavy campaign in Gratiot County this fall is made evident from the fact that two well known state Democratic figures will be present at the meeting in Ithaca Tuesday. William A. Comstock of Detroit, chairman of the Democratic committee, is to be present, and it is not expected that he will travel from Detroit to Ithaca unless "there is something in the wind." A. M. Cummings of Lansing is the other well known Democratic figure who will be present at the meeting.

### WON SECOND HONORS

Phil Lewis, winner of the local and sub-district oratorical honors, was forced to content himself with second honors at the district oratorical contest held at Howell last Friday evening, the Howell representative in the contest being favored for first place by the judges of the contest. Lewis, with his oration, "The Hope of the World" made a strong impression on the judges and the audience and gave the Howell representative a hard battle for the honors. The first place vote went to the Howell contestant by only a small margin. Lewis is to be congratulated on the showing that he has made in oratory this year, the first in which he has attempted platform work.

## WILL FINISH THE WORK THIS WEEK

PAVING ON SOUTH WOODWORTH  
WILL BE COMPLETED IF THE  
WEATHER IS FAIR.

With the end of the present week it is expected that the firm of Bartling & Holmes will have completed the paving on South Woodworth avenue from Superior street south to the Pere Marquette railroad.

With the grading practically completed a week ago, work of putting in the curbing was started and this part of the job was brought to a completion on Tuesday morning of this week. The same morning a gang of workmen started laying the concrete paving, beginning the work at the south end of the street, near to the Pere Marquette railroad, and working northward on the street. Considerable more than half of the first block of paving was spread Tuesday in spite of the fact that something went wrong with the concrete mixer that held up the work during the last few hours of the day.

The rain of Wednesday morning also caused a holdup in the work, but there is every expectation that with good weather during the balance of the week the firm will have no trouble in completing the paving work by Saturday night. This would be highly creditable to the Alma firm if such is the case, as it will bring about completion of the work a few days before the time set for its completion, May 10. Only poor weather conditions will cause a holdup now that will keep the work from being finished this week.

## Annual Report of Fires Given

The report of the chief of the Alma Fire Department covering the work of the department from May 1, 1921 to May 1, 1922 shows that during the twelve months the department was called to 46 fires, and that the total loss from this number of blazes was only \$18,335, making a fire record in this city, which like the one of a year ago, is exceptional.

The fire loss for 45 fires was remarkably low, being only \$8,335. The report shows that the total property endangered by these fires amounted to \$527,000, a great proportion of the fires being in the residential districts, which kept down the valuation of property endangered.

For some years the fire loss in this city has been remarkably low, especially a year ago. The continuance of this low fire loss can only be laid to the prompt and efficient service of the Alma Fire Department, which of late years has been gaining an enviable reputation among the fire departments of the state from the standpoint of efficiency in results achieved. When it is considered that the department is only a part paid department, the results that have been secured are the more noteworthy.

## HOME SERVICE APPEAL IS TO START FRIDAY

ADVISORY BOARD OF SALVA-  
TION ARMY TO SEEK \$3,950  
FOR ORGANIZATION.

### County Organized for the Campaign

The Advisory Board of the Salvation Army is all ready for the annual "Home Service Appeal" of the organization, which is to be waged in Gratiot County from May 5 to May 12, inclusive, and has every confidence that the goal of \$3,950, which is to be sought from the people of the county will be achieved before the drive comes to a close a week from Friday.

For the first time, since efforts have been made in this county to aid the work of this great organization through the annual appeal, Gratiot is thoroughly organized for conducting the work and it is expected that far better results will be achieved than ever before.

Since the Salvation Army post was organized in this city, the Army has been doing a splendid work in Alma, as it has in every other community in which it has been working. Not only is its influence felt in the communities in which the posts are located, but is strongly felt for some distance into the surrounding country. The various phases of the work of the Salvation Army make it one of the country's most useful organizations and it is probable that few if any, organizations give a bigger return on the investment than does the Salvation Army.

One phase of the work of the Salvation Army was recently taken up by Brigadier Withers, who said:

"The Salvation Army is ready to assist state, county and city officials in any emergency which may arise throughout the State.

"When the heavy rains recently flooded certain areas in Indiana and Illinois, The Salvation Army workers were the first to appear on the scene ready to serve in whatever way they could. A report from the Illinois State officials states that "The Salvation Army is working in every town hit by the high water, trying to alleviate the suffering."

"We now have thirty-four corps in the Michigan Division" stated Brigadier Samuel Withers "and the officers in charge of these corps are continually on the lookout to assist not only those in distress but also the local officers. Should an emergency arise requiring outside help, the local officer would communicate with the Divisional Office and we would furnish whatever help was required, even though we had to use every officer and lassie in the division to meet that particular emergency."

## Clearing Figures, Business Barometer

The many and varied rumors in regard to local business conditions which are heard from time to time, has prompted The Record to make an arrangement whereby we can publish each week the amount of exchanges, or clearings between the local banks. It is said that a more accurate barometer of business is obtainable than figures which represent the volume of business transacted in a community.

Through the courtesy of The First State Bank the following clearing figures are secured:

Total clearing in 1921 were \$6,650,425.03; with a daily average of \$21,608.81.

The clearings for the current week were \$101,546.71.

The clearing for the corresponding week last year were \$106,135.56.

These figures represent only about one-third of the total business transacted by the local banks and when one takes into consideration the decrease in the cost of merchandise, it would seem that Alma is getting along very well. If every man would boost, advertise and work as never before, people here would need have no fear regarding the future of their fine little city.

### ERECTING NEW SIGNS

The Republic Truck Sales Corporation of this city is erecting new Republic signs on the main traveled roads, which call attention to the unequalled Republic service. The Republic Shield is carried in the center of each of the large signs, which are about 6 by 8 feet. They are finished in black and in Republic yellow. Alma people will have the opportunity of viewing one of these new signs as one has been located on The Republic Motor Truck Company's property at the intersection of Euclid, Superior and Michigan.

## Remodeling Rooms At Dodge Garage

The Dodge garage on East Superior street, owned by John E. Hall is undergoing some extensive alterations this week, which will provide enlarged quarters for the repair room and will also permit a better handling of the parts carried in stock for the Dodge automobiles that are carried by this concern which has the Dodge agency.

The display rooms at the front of the garage are being made smaller, but will still be of sufficient size for a fine display of Dodge automobiles.

The stock room is being re-arranged down the east side of the garage, and the balance of the room is being put into the former repair room, which will have about twice the floor space that it formerly had, and which has been a need of the garage for some time.

## INTERESTING C. OF C. MEETING

BARSTOW OF ST. LOUIS AND  
HAMILTON SPEAKERS AT  
LUNCHEON.

Although there was a big disappointment at the weekly luncheon of the Alma Chamber of Commerce yesterday because of the inability of Colonel Frank E. Smith to be present, as had been expected, a hurried change in the program that did great credit to the program committee headed by J. L. Winslow, brought about a meeting that was a highly successful one. Jotham Allen and Professor Hamilton of this city, and Dr. Barstow of St. Louis were the speakers. Charles G. Rhodes presided as chairman.

Immediately following the luncheon Mr. Allen, manager of the Alma Plant of the Michigan Sugar Company explained the need of a protective tariff for the American sugar industry. He stated that the Alma plant had paid out to farmers last year \$567,000 for beets and \$226,000 for labor. The plant received, he said, 1,420 cars of beets, 546 cars of coal, 136 cars of lime, etc. The plant shipped out 315 carloads of sugar, 256 carloads of pulp and 36 carloads of molasses he stated. At the conclusion of his talk petitions were passed through the audience to be sent to Senators Newberry and Townsend asking protection for sugar to such an extent that it would permit the American farmers \$6.00 per ton for beets. The petitions were largely signed.

One of the fifteen business men of St. Louis, who availed themselves of the invitation of the Alma Chamber of Commerce, to attend a luncheon, was Dr. Barstow, who was called upon by Chairman Rhodes.

Dr. Barstow called attention to the fact that the aims of St. Louis and Alma were the same, and that an industry which would help one community would help the other, by reason of the two cities being so close to each other. With their interests so closely allied, it would be foolish to endeavor to run independently in a business way, he pointed out. In closing he stated that the business men of St. Louis would be glad to cooperate at any time in giving any assistance that they could in putting over any good projects.

J. L. Winslow read a letter from the Toledo wholesalers who will be in Alma next Wednesday on their extension tour, calling attention to the fact that the luncheon next Wednesday will be for the Toledo visitors, about 75 in number, the directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants Bureau and the members of the City Commission. The luncheon for the Toledo visitors will be at 11:45 and will be followed at 12:15 by a program which the business men are urged to attend.

Professor Roy Hamilton of Alma College gave an address on the Community testing period, as he termed the period of business depression that has tested the country. In his address he pointed out that Alma had come through the period in excellent shape. It is a period that tests the individual, he said, and in the victory that he wins he prepares himself for the bigger victory of the future, which demands as its foundations purity of life and an enlightened citizenship.

### INSTALL OFFICERS

The Installation of Officers of Alma Chapter No. 43 O. E. S. was held Friday evening, April 28, with Past Matron Mrs. Anna Messenger acting as installing officer. Following the Installation Past Worthy Patron Frank O. Parker in behalf of Alma Chapter presented the Past Matrons of the Chapter with Past Matrons pins. Past Worthy Grand Matron, Mrs. Louise Turk representing the Past Matrons of Alma Chapter gave a very appropriate and pleasing speech of acceptance.

## CITY CLERK TENDERS HIS RESIGNATION

SALARY CUT OF ONE-THIRD  
CONSIDERABLY TOO MUCH  
IS HAYWARD'S VIEW.

### Effective at the Pleasure of City

Feeling the need of retrenchment in city affairs, the City Commission at an informal meeting last Thursday evening proposed a number of salary cuts as one of the means of reducing the proposed budget for 1922-23, and it is understood that there was a general feeling that the salary of the city clerk should be lopped from \$3,000 to 2,000, which has resulted in the resignation of Francis C. Hayward, as city clerk.

The salary of Hayward is not the only one that felt the weight of the axe swung by the City Commissioners at their informal session. The health officer of the city and the city attorney's salaries were also sliced, but not to the degree that the salary of the clerk was cut. The salaries of William E. Reynolds, city attorney, and D. W. Adams, city treasurer, were not pared at the meeting.

The cutting of the clerk's salary by one-third was somewhat of a surprise, as it came unexpectedly. It certainly was a big surprise to Mr. Hayward, and he immediately tendered his resignation to the City Commission effective at the pleasure of the city.

It is understood that the City Commission will continue Mr. Hayward in the clerk's office until about the middle of the present month, at which time he expects to return to Detroit. Mr. Hayward came to Alma from Detroit about two years ago and at that time assumed the position of city clerk. He had too previously visited the city as an auditor of the city's books, and it was a knowledge of his work at that time that caused the City Commission to secure him as clerk.

There is no intimation at the present time as to the possible successor of Mr. Hayward in the office of city clerk, but it would not be surprising if a choice was decided upon by the city commission during the coming week.

## F. Hooper Leases Waterloo Creamery

The Elsie Sun says that immediately after the purchase of the Waterloo Creamery plant by F. W. Hooper of Alma, negotiations were started to lease the plant to the Clinton Creamery Company, composed of local men, mostly producers. A memorandum of the lease has been signed pending the confirmation of the sale.

According to the terms of the lease the Clinton Creamery Company are to pay the sum of six hundred and twenty-five dollars per month for the use of the plants. This is regarded as being cheap as owning the property and according to Mr. Gibbs would amount to three cents per hundred on the amount of milk now being received by the plants.

The amount of milk will be increased considerably it is expected, which will bring the figure down considerably on the average. About one thousand dollars per day are now paid to the producers after all expenses are paid. Mr. Corliss of the Waterloo demanded twenty-five cents per hundred on all milk handled by the plant when the company first went into the hands of the receiver. The present rate is regarded as very fair for all concerned and being a flat figure allows for no disputes. Another clause in the contract covering the upkeep of the equipment, which will be the only expense outside of operation proper that the company will have to pay, is that the fact that the equipment is in operation shall be evidence that the equipment has been maintained in the proper order. All taxes, insurance, etc., are to be paid by the owner.

The lease will be made for a period ending January 1, 1924, with certain termination clauses.

### PINE RIVER WOMAN DEAD

Mrs. Sarah Ann Humphrey, a well known resident of Pine River township, died at her farm home on April 29. The funeral was held from the late home Tuesday afternoon and interment was made in the Seville cemetery.

All kinds of sheet metal work. Phone 447. E. W. Albright, 124 Allen Ave.—advertisement 50-2w

May 12, "Leave it to Polly," at A. H. S.—advertisement.

## Former Resident Died in the East

Mrs. V. M. Wilson, a former resident of this city, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. E. Hanson, in New York City, April 25. She lacked just a few days of being 73 years of age.

Millesson R. Truax was born in Ogdensburg, N. Y. in 1849 and was married to Virgil M. Wilson in 1868. They resided in Saginaw and Ann Arbor for a number of years and then came to Alma, where they resided for 35 years. Mrs. Wilson was prominent in civic work, in club work and in the work of the Presbyterian Church of which she was a member.

Mr. Wilson died in 1912 and since that time Mrs. Wilson had made her home with her children.

She is survived by five children, Mrs. W. E. Hanson of New York City, J. L. Wilson of Elmore, Ohio, Mrs. P. H. Watkins of Elmore, Ohio, H. T. Wilson of Ann Arbor and W. E. Wilson of Alma.

The body was brought to Alma from New York and funeral services were held at the home of her son, W. E. Wilson, 417 West Center street, on Friday, April 28. Rev. Gelston officiating. Interment was made in Riverside cemetery.

### CIRCULATING PETITIONS

It is understood that petitions are being circulated asking the city commission to cause the construction of paving on Elwell street and on the portion of West End street which was not included in the paving that the commission provided for on that street last year. It is expected that the petitions for the paving on the two streets will be submitted to the commission at its meeting next week, if a majority of the property owners affected have signed them by that time.

## NEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH RECTOR

REV. J. M. HORTON OF KINGS-  
VILLE, ONTARIO, TAKES UP  
WORK HERE SUNDAY.

St. John's Episcopal church of this city has secured a new rector, James M. Horton of Kingsville, Ontario. The church has been without the services of a resident rector for over a year. During this time the church has been served by various visiting rectors and Arch Deacon Jermin of Bay City.

During January the local parish succeeded in making arrangements with the Rev. James M. Horton of Kingsville, Ontario, to take charge of the work here. Mr. Horton has been in Kingsville, Ontario, for the past nine years and during that time has succeeded in increasing the congregation from a mere handful to one of one hundred twenty-five members and a Sunday school numbering over a hundred pupils. In addition Mr. Horton superintended the raising of funds for improving the church property and recently completed a beautiful parish house. Rev. Horton comes to Alma with the highest recommendations as a sincere and wide-awake clergyman who has a successful record behind him as an enthusiastic church worker and community builder. It is expected that under the direction of Rev. Horton the Episcopal church will take on a greater activity than ever before and that within a few years the congregation will be larger than ever in its history.

Mr. Horton is married and has a boy of high school age. It is hoped that everyone interested in the welfare of the church will be present at the Sunday services May 7th, at 10 a. m. and 7 p. m., on which date Rev. Horton will conduct his first services in Alma.

## Taylor Becomes C. of C. Manager

Stewart N. Taylor was appointed at a recent meeting as the Secretary-manager of the Alma Chapter of Commerce, succeeding H. E. Reece to this position by virtue of the action of the directors of the organization.

Mr. Taylor has had some little experience in this line of endeavor, having assisted Mr. Reece for some months prior to the departure of Reece for Saginaw, and since that time he has been the acting secretary-manager of the organization.

### WEATHER REPORT

Following is the weather summary for April: The mean maximum temperature was 57 degrees and the mean minimum was 35 degrees. The maximum was 75 degrees on April 7 and the minimum 26 degrees on April 1, 2, and 21. The total precipitation for the month was 3.09 inches, the greatest amount in 24 hours being 1.2 inches on April 11. The total snowfall was 5 inches. There were 15 clear days, 9 part cloudy and 6 cloudy days during the month.

## CITY WILL PAVE WEST END, DOWNIE AND WOODWORTH

FIVE YEAR SPECIAL ASSES-  
MENT BONDS WILL BE IS-  
SUED TO PAY FOR WORK.

### Rolls Confirmed Friday Evening

Friday evening at an adjourned meeting of the City Commission the special assessment rolls for the paving on North Woodworth ave., West End and Downie streets were confirmed following the hearing of objections to the proposed pavement on these streets, thereby showing the intention of the city to pave on these three streets in conformity with the petitions submitted a year ago.

Special assessment bonds covering a period of five years, will be used to pay the cost of the pavement on these streets for residents who do not desire to pay cash for the work this year, which must be done before the bonds are issued, if any of the property owners desire to take advantage of the cash payment.

At the hearing Friday evening the objections dwindled down to a considerable extent in regard to each street, when it became known that the City Commission was planning for a five year special assessment bond, the first payment on which will not be due until next year. This was especially true in regard to the property owners on Woodworth avenue, there not being a single objection made at the meeting when it became known that the five year plan was to be adopted.

The paving on Woodworth avenue will be from Superior street north, the entire length of the street, 30 feet wide, except for part of the whole of the first block north from Superior street which will be 50 feet wide. On Downie street the pavement to be laid will be from State street west for two blocks to Park avenue. On West End street the pavement will go west from State street for a distance of two blocks, leaving a single block on this street between State and Wright which will not be paved, unless a petition is submitted to have this work done. This block was not included in the original petition for the paving.

There is every expectation that with the five year assessment bond adopted property owners on other streets may desire to have paving done this year, while it can be constructed at surprisingly low prices as compared with former years. The City Commission last year received petitions for paving on Pine avenue, Park avenue, Prospect avenue and Elwell street. Later petitions were submitted by the majority of the residents of these streets asking that the work be held up until a later period because of the financial conditions in the country.

At the time the petitions were submitted for the work on these streets it was expected that the property owners would be asked to pay the special assessment at one time. It is believed that with the five year special assessment bond proposition that some of these streets may also be paved this year and that petitions may be submitted for some additional streets.

It is expected that the special assessment bonds can be sold easily with an interest rate of slightly over 5 per cent, which over the five year period would amount to a far smaller sum than the saving that is available this year over the cost of paving a year ago. It is believed that paving can be constructed much cheaper this year than will be possible next year as business conditions continue to improve.

On a fifty foot lot the saving on the construction cost of paving over last year will amount to approximately \$75.00 and to approximately \$99.00 on a 66 foot lot. The interest on the five year bond over this period would not be as large as the saving cost over last year's paving costs.

### ENTERTAINS CLASS

Dean Katherine Roberts and the Senior class of Alma College were entertained May 1st at a May morning Sunrise breakfast by Miss Mildred Cash, one of its members at her home on Grant avenue.

The table was beautiful with its splashes of yellow and white. Among the unique decorations was a miniature Maypole wound with yellow and white streamers. Tiny yellow May baskets filled with trailing arbutus were given as favors to each guest. The dainty three course breakfast was served by Misses Marguerite Field, Gladys Fryxell, and Helen Brien.